

Commissioner for Patents

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 6 and 10 to 34 are now in the application.

New Formal Drawings are being provided as requested.

The specification was amended whereby to correct the typographical errors noted by the Examiner. Similarly, the typographical errors as appearing in some of the claims were also amended. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his careful review of the specification and claims and for having noted these discrepancies. Applicant has reviewed the specification and it is now believed that all errors are corrected.

New claim 1 corresponds to former claim 8 rewritten in independent form. That claim was indicated as allowable by the Examiner. The amendment to claim 1 also necessitated the cancellation of claims 7, 8 and 9. New claim 16 corresponds to former claim 9 rewritten in independent form. That claim was also indicated as allowable by the Examiner. New dependent claims 17 to 21 correspond to former claims 2 to 6 but amended to correct the obvious errors noted by the Examiner and to make them dependent directly or indirectly on claim 16. New claims 22 to 27 correspond to former claims 10 to 15, also amended to correct obvious errors and to make them dependent directly or indirectly on claim 16.

New claim 28 corresponds to the combination of former claims 1 and 12 and with further amendments made thereto to better define over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Claims 29 to 34 correspond to former claims 2 to 7 and with the obvious errors appearing therein corrected and also their dependencies modified to depend upon claim 28.

In the Office Action the Examiner combined the Rueckert U.S. Patent 5,941,660 with the Neitzke et al U.S. Patent 5,281,055 and rejected most of the claims with the exception of claims 8 and 9 as being obvious thereover. New claim 28 as presented herewith is believed to be clearly, patentably distinguished from the combination of these references which do not disclose nor teach the watercraft support platform as now defined by this claim. It is pointed out that the Rueckert Patent discloses a rigid platform wherein there are no hollow casings as now defined by claim 28. Also claim 28 now recites that the trough-like upper surface extends across the top surface of the platform and

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that the sloped forward entryway has a forward projecting edge in a front wall thereof. The claim now further recites that there is a coupling cavity in a lower section of a rear wall thereof. None of the references cited by the Examiner show cavities in opposed walls thereof whereby two support platforms can be nested together end-to-end. First, it is pointed out that the support structure of Rueckert is a rigid structure which would sink under the waterline when a small watercraft is projected thereon. Also, the sloped forward entryway does not project in the front wall thereof. Still further, there is no coupling cavity in a lower section of a rear wall thereof to receive the lower forward projecting edge therein. This structure is clearly not disclosed in either of the two references cited by the Examiner nor would it be obvious to modify the Rueckert platform to do this. In fact, the trough-like upper surface of the Rueckert platform does not extend across the top surface of the platform as now recited in claim 28. If these platforms were nested end-to-end there would be a cavity between the two trough-like upper surfaces because that surface that not extend across the top wall, as noted above.

In view of the above arguments and remarks, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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By:



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(Date)

Enc.

P.S.: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the excess claims fee in the amount of ~~\$525.00~~, together with any deficiency, to Account No. 19-5113.

# 275.00

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached sheets of drawings are to provide Formal Drawings only.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (Formal Drawings)